12.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government through you the grievance of the people of Kerala. Kerala has a well-planned and well-equipped public distribution system and also statutory rationing. So far the Government of India had been allocating rice from Andhra Pradesh and the people of Kerala were also satisfied with that rice. Now the Government of India has changed its policy and allowed us rice from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Besides incurring additional cost of transportation, the rice is also comparatively not to the taste of the people of Kerala. I do not know why the Government of India has taken this decision. It has been said that because of the non-availability of railway wagons this decision has been taken by the Government. I do not know how the Government will have wagons from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh when it is not able to have the same wagon facilities from Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Kerala I urge the Government of India through you, Sir, to revise its policy and allow us to continue to have our allocation of rice from Andhra Pradesh instead of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAM (Tirunelveli): Though you I want to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to a news item that had appeared in The Hindu "LTTE sympathisers on fast in Bangalore". The same day, the Home Minister had made a statement the role and the working of SIT in 'Operation Sivarasan' was quite satisfactory. But on August 21, the LTTE supporters reportedly held a condolence meeting, garlanded the photo of Sivarasan, described him as a hero and took oath to take revenge on those who are responsible for the suicide of Sivarasan. This is a very shameful news for any Indian. I want to know from the hon. Minister the validity of this information. And it should also be clarified whether the persons who were arrested in Bangalore have got any connection with any political party or parties.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARACHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications. A few days back a newsitem had appeared in the press in which the General Manager of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam was reported to have said that local calls exceeding every three minutes would be charged for the next call. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the subscribers are already hard pressed in view of the increase in tariff rates for the last three years. Such an arrangement would be a great injustice with the subscribers. It takes three minutes to call a person on phone. Every person does not have a personal secretary like the Ministers to attend to calls and it takes three minutes to call a person on phone.

As such I would urge that if a notification in this regard is likely to be issued shortly in four or five days, then it should not be issued and subscribers be saved from further hardships.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue. We unanimously support it. We all agree that three minutes are required to call a person on phone. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): This has been a suggestion especially in cases where electronic exchanges are functioning and the traffic has increased so much. This is one of the proposals under consideration of the Government. We are taking through various forums the views of the consumers. The moment the opinion comes